

a whole. The word Zion is used in the Bible sometimes in a figurative sense--the place of God's blessing but ordinarily it is used in a literal sense. In a great many N.T. quotations they are speaking of literal Zion but in other cases they are speaking of that which will flow out of literal Zion--it is ordinarily a specific literal place and a geographical area. It may occasionally be used to mean the whole of God's blessing but that is not the usual way at all. He is here talking to these people that are going to be delivered from Babylon, that it will not be postponed forever but in the near future it is going to come--they will be brought back to Zion. If you just grab this out of context and say that it means something spiritual, you can make the Bible just mean anything. The greater part refers to deliverance of Babylon--He says that He will continue to do His mighty work--that which you will cannot see will not tarry but salvation is coming to Zion. We might say that there is an overlapping here--it is all a part of God's work but that which is particularly in view is the deliverance from Babylon and taking them back.

217 -- There is part of God's righteousness that might be thought of as comprehended in this great picture but which here is not gone into at all, except as taken as part of the whole picture. Now ch. 47 continues with the declaration that we have just been having, that the victory that God is going to establish over Babylon--the righteousness that God is going to establish in place of Babylon's wickedness as over the unrighteousness of the Babylonians and so he says comes down and sit in the dust, O virgin daughter of Babylon: sit on the ground without a throne, and the next three verses show Babylon as a woman losing everything that was good and reduced to this condition of misery. The reason is what the Lord is going to do--Our Redeemer, Jehovah of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel. After 5 verses of that in v. 6 he says Israel was given into thy hand--He is picturing here that Babylon will be subjected and reduced as God brings to pass His righteousness as he frees the Israelites and putting them in the place of inferiority and taking away the leadership they had in the world at that time. It goes on to describe that in general in v. 9, 10--evil will come upon them. The 47th ch. deals with the Babylonians and the punishment that God is going to bring upon them. Note the specific detail that is expressed in v. 12 and 13 and then at the end of v. 13--it is not such a simple thing that the ordinary patriotic Jew might think. Here are the Israelites in subjection and God is going to make the Israelites supreme and